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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE JAN 06 2003

In re application of:

PIRES *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/986,750

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Method for Removing a Universal  
Linker from an Oligonucleotide**

Confirmation No.: 5957 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Schultz, James

Atty. Docket: 0942.5080001/RWE/CJW

**Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 2, 2002 (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 9), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) A clean version of each replacement paragraph/section/claim along with clear instructions for entry;
- (B) Starting on a separate page, appropriate remarks and arguments.  
37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and MPEP 714; and
- (C) Starting on a separate page, a marked-up version entitled: "Version with markings to show changes made."

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of